

In your writing journal, you will write down ideas and impressions from each of the readings we do for this class. You can use full sentences or bullet points, but make sure that you thoroughly address each reading.

Readings from *Bird by Bird* (and other craft readings)

These are readings about the craft of fiction, in which the author gives advice about how to approach the process. Write down some of the ideas and pieces of advice you found useful and noteworthy.

Short Stories

Write about what you thought of the story for the day. What you enjoyed, disliked, found interesting. Also, pay attention to decisions the author makes, especially related to the ideas from *Bird by Bird* and other craft readings (character, setting, dialogue, plot, point of view, language, etc.). Pull out some lines or passages from the story that you found particularly interesting/effective/striking.

Here are some questions that can help you get thinking. *You don't have to answer all of them.* Feel free to use any of them as a jumping-off point.

1. What did you find interesting? What made you think?
2. What about this piece did you enjoy most? Least?
3. Think about the characters. How does the author bring them alive? What makes them compelling/strange/likeable/hatable?
4. What are some moments of description that stuck out to you as striking or beautiful?
5. What is the point of view? Why do you think the author decided on it? How does it drive the story?
6. What are some moments of dialogue that feel particularly fascinating or effective?
7. What do you make of the ending?
8. If you were writing the story, would you do anything differently?